

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – 1st Sunday of Advent 29th November 2020

PRIEST: Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand. On this first Sunday in Advent and conscious of your love for each one of us, we place ourselves and our prayers entirely in your hands.

READER: Let us pray for Pope Francis and all religious leaders. May they lead by their personal good example and be shining lights of hope in our troubled world.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response Lord graciously hear us.

READER: Let us pray for all those concerned in the creation, testing and distribution of the promised vaccines against Covid-19. May their efforts bring an end to the pandemic.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: Let us pray for everyone who, during the lockdown, has faced job insecurity and who may be struggling to cope at this present time. May they find peace of mind and practical solutions to their difficulties. Let us pray for all those who are struggling with mental health issues as a result of the coronavirus restrictions. May they discover the support and recovery that they need in order to live a full and happy life.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response Lord graciously hear us.

READER: Let us pray for ourselves and all those whom we know and love as we start our Advent journey towards Christmas. May we follow the Star of Bethlehem and allow Jesus to be born in our hearts. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We give thanks that places of worship are now open for people to join in religious services and feel part of their Church community again.

(Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us

READER: We remember all who are sick, those in hospital and those who are housebound. We remember especially the sick of our own Parish; Father Fred Sheldon. Damian Poole, Kath Clark, Angela and Tony Duffy, James Farmer, Philomena Gallagher, Ken and Doreen Shirley, Chris Jena, Keith Frettsome, Lena Gallagher, Colette Hickey, Danny Meadows, Martha Sheridan, John Kavanagh, Patricia Mann and Paul Mann, Malachy Hanly, Dan Doyle, Adrian and Diane Burgess and our families wherever they may be. May they find hope and healing and may we all find ways of responding to their needs. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

READER: We remember those who have died recently: Mark Holder and Cathy Sampson; we pray that they all may be brought to life in Christ who has destroyed death as the final enemy under His feet. We also remember those with anniversaries at this time: Bridget Mary Cronin, Eileen Marie Kenny, Margaret French, Kevin William Geary, Gertrude Ann Horsburgh, John Alfred Peace, Patricia Bridget Banks, Michael Murphy, Zofia Lozinski, Catherine Newman, David Barrett, and all with anniversaries at this time. (Pause) Lord hear us. Response: Lord graciously hear us.

Let us ask Mary the Mother of the Lord to pray with us: as we say- Hail Mary...Now let us pray for a few moments in silence for our own needs and intentions and for those intentions placed in the prayer box.

PRIEST: Loving Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, help us to stay awake to your care for us and for our world. Help us to make this Advent a truly love-filled experience for many people as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Amen